

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1 - 10 (Canceled)

11. (New) A dishwasher comprising:  
at least one washing container for receiving items to be cleaned; and  
a system for recognition of the fluid level of the washing fluid contained in the dishwasher, the fluid level recognition system having at least one capacitive filling level sensor whose electrical capacitance changes as a function of the height of the fluid level.
12. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor is in the form of a capacitor whose electrical capacitance varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the filling level sensor.
13. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor reacts to the relative dielectric constant of water.
14. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor includes at least two opposite active sensor surfaces at which an electromagnetic field can be formed that varies as a function of the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the sensor surfaces.
15. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor is located outside the washing container, the filling level sensor has a selected one of at least one sensor surface and no sensor surfaces, and the filling level sensor and its respective sensor surfaces are isolated from the rinsing liquid by a selected one of a wall of the washing container and a structure other than a wall of the washing

container.

16. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein at least one sensor probe made of electrically conducting material is provided inside the washing container and an electromagnetic field can be formed between the sensor probe and the filling level sensor, wherein the electromagnetic field varies depending on the height of the liquid level or varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the sensor probe.
17. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the at least one sensor probe is arranged so that it is separated with respect to an active sensor surface of the filling level sensor by a selected one of a wall of the washing container and a structure other than a wall of the washing container.
18. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor and its variation is detected using electrical means by at least one of a detection in a qualitative manner and a detection in a qualitative manner.
19. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11 and further comprising electronic storage means in which at least one reference value can be stored which corresponds to an electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor at a specific fluid level.
20. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein a certain limiting value of the electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor is specified to discriminate between whether the filling level sensor is located in the proximity of a medium having a high or low dielectric constant or whether the filling level sensor is surrounded by an aqueous fluid or by air.